GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND UK
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bilateral negotiations between India and UK to open aviation market in both the countries have failed;

(b) if so, the details of the negotiations held;

(c) whether the Government are holding discussions with any other country for opening up of aviation markets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of frequencies Air India is allowed to operate in the India-UK sector;

(f) the frequencies actually being used by Air India; and

(g) the reasons for not fully utilising the frequencies in this sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): Bilateral air services consultations between India and U K held i n London on 20-21st June, 2002 ended inconclusively because of the wide divergence in the position of the two sides. While British authorities requested for increase in entitlement by 15 services per week in phased manner, the Indian offer was four additional services per week by Summer 2004. Besides UK authorities declined to make any commitment to provide additional slots to Air India at Heathrow airport. Both sides have agreed to meet again in near future.

(c) & (d): Review of traffic rights and operation of foreign airlines from different airports in the country is an ongoing process. As a part of this process, bilateral civil aviation talks have been held this year with Iran, Jordan, Afghanistan, Itlay, Sri Lanka, Singaopore, Qatar and UK. Apart from increase in entitlement, designated airlines of Sri Lanka, Singapore and Qatar have been granted access to new stations such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin and Gaya.

(e)& (f) : The designated airlines of both India and UK areentitled to operate 19 services per week in each direction of which 3 frequencies have to be operated on Kolkata-London sector. Air India is presently operating 11 services per week to/through UK Virgin Atlantic, one of the designated British carriers, is also operating 2 services/week out of Indian side`s entitlement.

(g) : Non availability of suitable slots at Heathrow airport is the principal reason for Air India not utilising its full entitlement.